

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7009

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Leon Ruben for twenty-five years of service as a Judge of the General Sessions Court.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding public servant is Judge Leon Ruben of Nashville, who has dedicated his professional career to ensuring equal justice for all his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Leon Ruben recently marked his twenty-fifth year of service on the bench as a General Sessions Judge; and

WHEREAS, one of the senior jurists of the General Sessions Court of Nashville-Davidson County, Mr. Ruben was appointed to the bench in 1981 by the Nashville Metropolitan Council and re-elected in 1982, 1990, and 1998; and

WHEREAS, a 1952 graduate of Howard High School, Leon Ruben received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in 1956 and his law degree from the Nashville School of Law in 1962; and

WHEREAS, a former Assistant Public Defender, Mr. Ruben represented Nashville's thirty-fifth district as a member of the Metro Council from 1975 until 1981; to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the late Dennis W. Summers, Leon Ruben was appointed General Sessions Judge, Division VIII, by the Metro Council and took office on January 26, 1981; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Ruben has won the respect and admiration of both his judicial peers and colleagues and the attorneys and citizens appearing before his Court; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruben's level of dedication to professionalism is evident through his membership in the Nashville Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference, Lawyer's Association for Women, American Judges Association, and American Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Leon Ruben has served as presiding Judge for the General Sessions Courts from 1984 to 1988, 1990 to 1991, 1996 to 1997, and 2000 to 2001; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruben has served with probity for more than sixteen years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference and, since 1995, he has honorably served on the American Judges Association Board of Governors representing District Eight, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruben was also elected to the American Judges Association Court of Appeals for a five-year term and served as president of the Tennessee General Sessions Conference from 1993 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, despite the many demands placed upon him, Mr. Ruben has still found time to contribute his remarkable talents to his community as a member of numerous civic organizations, including the Bellevue Exchange Club, Murfreesboro Road Optimist Club, and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce; he has also served on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross and the Alumni Board of Leadership Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce named Leon Ruben Bellevue Citizen of the Year in 1981, and he received the Service to Mankind Award from the Bellevue Sertoma Club in 1991; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and achievements aside, Leon Ruben is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Sandi (Gordon) Ruben, and their seven children and eleven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruben and his family evince their devout religious faith as members of the West End Synagogue, in which they have been active for many years; and

WHEREAS, always in good humor, Leon Ruben is Nashville's most publicized collector of Mickey Mouse memorabilia; his collection began when the Metro Council seemed unable to reach a decision on the issue of building a new Criminal Justice Center; to move the

deliberations forward, Mr. Ruben quipped, "Let's quit Mickey Mousing around and get something done" and by the start of the next Council meeting, a small figure of Mickey Mouse had been discreetly placed on his desk; and

WHEREAS, Leon Ruben's remarkable success as a jurist is attributed to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work, common sense, and his uncommon ability to empathize with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, seldom does a man of Judge Ruben's stature walk among us, and it is fitting that he should be specially recognized for his life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Judge Leon Ruben for his for twenty-five years of meritorious service as a Judge of the General Sessions Court and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.